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| State of California - The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION | | MANUAL |
| DEPARTMENTAL NOTICE | No. | Operations |
| SUBJECT | | CHAPTER |
| TRAIL POLICY | | 1800 |
| ISSUED | EXPIRES | REFERENCE |
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DPR 375 (Rev. 10/2001)(Word 6/25/2002)

WHEN APPLICABLE, ENTER THE NUMBER AND DATE OF THIS DEPARTMENTAL NOTICE IN THE MARGIN OF THE MANUAL PAGE, ADJACENT TO THE SECTION(S) AFFECTED BY IT.

The following policy and procedures supersede those issued in Departmental Notice 88-65. This revision establishes the Department's policy for trails and clarifies the management roles and responsibilities of the various levels of the Department.

Preface

The Department of Parks and Recreation's mission statement and the California Park and Recreation Commission *Statement of Policy (2.Opportunities)* direct the department to provide opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Trails are a primary state park facility that offer health-enhancing recreation opportunities, access to park resources for interpretation and education, and enhance community involvement.

Policy

It is the policy of the Department of Parks and Recreation's to provide trails for accessing park features and facilities and to provide planning that will effectively meet near-term and long-term recreation opportunities. The Department, through a public planning process, will strive to meet the recreational, educational and interpretation needs of its diverse trail users by developing trails within state parks, consistent with park unit classification, general plan directives, cultural and natural resource protection, public safety, accessibility, user compatibility and other legal and policy mandates. Multi-use trails will be given preferential consideration in implementing this policy.

Guidelines

The Department's *Trails Handbook* serves as the Department's guideline for trail design, construction, survey (Universal Trails Assessment Process (UTAP)), operations and maintenance standards. Trail planning is necessary to effectively balance public access and recreational needs or desires with management requirements to ensure adequate resource protection and public safety. The *Handbook* provides a detailed Unit Trails Plan template that will ensure adequate trail system planning and public input.

Delineation of Responsibilities

Staff responsibilities in implementation of this policy include:

- **District/Sector/Park Units**

Identify a District Trails Coordinator and provide appropriate trails related training and opportunities.

Complete a comprehensive Unit Trail System Plan for each park unit when feasible and appropriate.

- **Field Division Chiefs**

Provide statewide consistency reviews for Unit Trail System Plans and for specific District trail project decisions, such as changes in use, where potential statewide implications may exist.

- **Accessibility Office**

Provide review of all trail projects to ensure adherence to Accessibility guidelines, goals and objectives.

- **Statewide Trails Office**

Provide assistance for the planning and development of Unit Trail System Plans and support for grant application preparation for trails-related grant funding sources.

- **Recreation Unit**

Assist Districts in resolving user conflicts and those conflicts between the needs of natural and cultural resources and the recreation needs of the public.

- **Department Training Center**

Provide an ongoing Trails Training Program emphasizing the latest techniques, tools and materials for the design, construction and maintenance of trails.